

HERB AND LOIS WALKER'S  
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

## The Sign-Up!



A READERS THEATER SCRIPT  
PROMOTING  
CHARACTER-BUILDING  
AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP

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## **RT THE SIGN-UP!**

by Lois Walker

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This Readers Theater script has been especially created to introduce and foster concepts promoting character-building and good citizenship.

The character-building information included in the script was found on the Character Counts web site at:

**[http://charactercounts.org/pdf/Exercising-Character/Exer-Char\\_04-06-trustworthiness.pdf](http://charactercounts.org/pdf/Exercising-Character/Exer-Char_04-06-trustworthiness.pdf)**

**[http://charactercounts.org/pdf/Exercising-Character/Exer-Char\\_06-09-responsibility.pdf](http://charactercounts.org/pdf/Exercising-Character/Exer-Char_06-09-responsibility.pdf)**

The information was found in the free lesson plan and activity sheet section and the information recommended for children from 4 to 9 years in age.

**NOTE: This is an excellent script for older readers to rehearse and then perform for a younger audience!**

**CAST:** The script requires three readers. The readers can be male, female, or a mixture of both. Readers 1 and 2 are playing the parts of students in a school setting. Reader 3 should be someone well-known and respected by the entire audience - a school counselor, principal, or local minister, etc. (Reader 3 has a small reading part, so won't necessarily have to be present for more than one or two rehearsals before the performance).

**SYNOPSIS:** During recess, two students (Reader 1 and Reader 2) set up tables near the principal's office and attempt to sign other students up for two different teams: **The DO TEAM** and **The DON'T TEAM**. Each reader wants to get the most sign-ups and thinks his/her team is better and totally different from the other. In the end, it is the school counselor, principal, or local minister (someone known to everyone at your school) who takes the part of Reader 3 and convinces them that their teams aren't really so different after all! Together, the three readers decide they are "one and the same" and "all in this together" and that they symbolize family, school, team, community, county, and even - our world.

**SIGNS:** The DO TEAM!, The DON'T TEAM!, HONESTY, TRUSTWORTHY, INTEGRITY, PROMISES, LOYALTY, SAME TEAM. **PROPS:** Long scroll of paper, large pencil, blue and white crepe paper pom-pom, large baseball cap with DON'T sign attached, large button or badge that says DO, a pair of wild over-sized sunglasses.

**SOUND:** School bell ringing. (Sound of a school bell ringing).

**STAGE OR READING AREA SET-UP:** Three music stands are set up beside each other at Center Stage, backs of stands facing the audience. A reading script (in a 3-ring binder for easy page turning) will rest on each stand. There must be room for the readers to stand comfortably behind the music stands so that they can easily see the reading text, yet have hands free to hold props and turn pages. Reader 1 and Reader 2 stand behind two stands that are beside each other. The third stand is reserved for Readers 3 when he/she enters

later on in the reading. A prop table holding all the signs and props is placed behind the readers. It should be positioned so that it leaves comfortable room for the readers to stand, but close enough so that readers can turn around and have easy access to the signs and props.

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### **THE READING TEXT:**

(Loud singing is heard from off stage as Reader 1 walks/dances in carrying a large sign that says: "The DO TEAM!" Reader 1 continues singing loudly, then stops when he/she notices the audience).

READER 1: Oh, wow! Hi! I didn't know all of you were out here. I hope you haven't been waiting long. Just let me get my team sign-up table ready and I'll be right with you.

(Reader 1 hangs sign over music stand so it can be clearly seen by audience).

READER 1: That's us folks. Once you sign up with me, we'll all be on the DO TEAM! Now, am I in the right place? Yeah. I was told to put my sign-up table right across the hall from Mr/Mrs (principal's name) office door during recess. (Looking out into audience) Well, it's recess time and there's the door, so this must be the place. OK. Now I'd better go get some paper.

(Reader 1 sings loudly again and turns back to audience (BTA). Loud singing continues to be heard as Reader 2 enters and is seen on

opposite side of the stage. Reader 2 carries a large sign that says:  
"The DON'T TEAM!")

READER 2: What was that racket I just heard? Sounds like somebody stepped on my cat's tail!

(Reader 2 hangs sign over his/her music stand so it can be clearly seen by audience. Reader 1 stops singing, abruptly and Reader 2 gives him/her a dirty look. Reader 2 then addresses the audience).

READER 2: Hi everybody! Am I in the right place? I was told to put my sign-up table right down the hall from Mr/Mrs (principal's name) office at recess time, so this must be right. I guess you're all waiting to sign up for the DON'T TEAM. I need lots of people to sign up for the DON'T TEAM! You all look perfect. Don't leave. I'll be right back with a pencil.

(Reader 2 turns BTA as Reader 1 quietly picks up scroll of paper from prop table and turns to face the audience).

READER 1: Hope I've got enough paper for all the names.

(Reader 1 holds on to top of paper and lets the scroll go. The paper unrolls all the way down the front of the music stand and reaches the floor below. Reader 1 looks down).

READER 1: Yeah, that should do it. (Clears throat, then speaks loudly): A-hem! Ladies and gentlemen! Attention please. Calling all

GOOD PEOPLE! Hey, hey, I'm right over here. It's time for all GOOD PEOPLE to sign-up for the DO TEAM!

(Reader 2 turns to face the audience holding a large pencil).

READER 2: Good people? Good people? What are you talking about?

READER 1: Excuse me, but I'm here on official business. Mr/Mrs (teacher's name) told me to find a lot of GOOD PEOPLE and sign them up for the DO TEAM. What are *YOU* doing here?

PUPPER 2: Ha! Well excuse *me*, but I'm here on official business too. Mr/Mrs (another teacher's name) told me to set up a table and ask people to sign up for the DON'T TEAM.

READER 1: (To audience). Oh, oh, another team! I'd better get to work. I'll get my sign-up sheet filled with names before this so-called DON'T TEAM even gets started. I was here first and the early bird gets the worm, ya know.

(Loudly): Step right up! Calling all GOOD PEOPLE! I'm looking for GOOD PEOPLE to sign-up for the DO TEAM!

READER 2: So, what's this "good people" stuff? What exactly does that mean?

READER 1: GOOD PEOPLE are honest people! Here, I'll show you.

(Reader 1 turns BTA. Reader 2 drops pencil on music stand and speaks).

READER 2: Hey! What's going on here? (To audience): Where's he/she going?

(Reader 1 quickly turns back to face audience holding another sign that says):

## **HONESTY**

READER 1: This says it all. Good people...

Tell the truth.

They tell all the truth.

They say what they mean.

They keep their promises.

And, if they find something, they return it to the owner!

So, that's what good people *do* and that's why I want to sign them up for the DO TEAM!

(Reader 1 drops sign to the floor).

READER 2: No, no. You've got it all wrong. GOOD PEOPLE belong on the DON'T TEAM.

Reader 2 turns to prop table and quickly produces another sign that says:

## **TRUSTWORTHY**

READER 2: This is the sign that says it all. Good people are trustworthy. They...

*Don't tell lies.*

*Don't trick other people by telling only part of the truth.*

*Don't say they'll do something without really doing it.*

*Don't cheat and don't steal!*

(Reader 2 drops sign to the floor).

READER 1: Hummmm. (To audience): It sounds like I've got some competition here. I want the DO TEAM to win by getting the most sign-ups, but this guy (girl) is invading my territory. I'd better think of a way to get my sign-ups done fast. I need to attract some attention!

(Reader 1 turns BTA).

READER 2: Oh, oh! Now what's he/she doing? I don't want to get behind in the sign-up department. I need to attract some attention too. I'd better think of something!

(Reader 2 turns BTA as Reader 1 again turns to face audience. Reader 1 holds a blue and white crepe paper pom-pom and shakes it wildly. The crepe paper ribbons flip back and forth over the puppet's head).

READER 1: These are the DO TEAM colors!

(Reader 1 begins to loudly cheer).

Blue and white is always right,  
Do Team, fight, fight!

(To audience): Let's hear it everyone! Help me with another cheer...

Give me a "D"

(Audience): "D"

READER 1: Give me an "O"

(Audience): "O"

READER 1: What does it spell?

(Audience): DO!

READER 1: Say it again...

(Audience): DO!

Blue and white is always true,  
DO TEAM, we fight for you!

(Reader 1 looks to the left, then to the right, then out to the audience).

READER 1: Oops, guess that didn't work. I don't see anybody coming to sign up. I'd better try something different.

Attention, attention! Come one, come all. Sign up for the DO TEAM. I'm looking for teammates with...

(Reader 1 turns to the prop table, drops pom-pom, and turns back holding a sign that says:

## **INTEGRITY**

(Reader 2 turns head to have a look at sign, then slowly turns all the way around to face the audience).

READER 2: Integrity? So what's that supposed to mean?

READER 1: I'm looking for good people with integrity! People with integrity are...

Brave - because they're always trying to do and say the right things.

And they are strong. They try to do the right thing, even when people want them to do bad things. I'm looking for people who try to be good - all the time!

That's what they *do* and that's why they should sign up for the DO TEAM.

READER 2: Oh boy, how wrong can a person be? I'm sorry, but you really do not have a clue about how things work. People with integrity belong on the DON'T TEAM because they...

*Don't* do bad things, even when people try to make them do bad things. And they *don't* say bad things, even if it means they'll lose friends or fun or even money.

So there!

(Reader 2 turns BTA).

READER 1: (To audience). This is going from bad to worse! That guy (girl) is stuck in DON'T-VILLE!

(Reader 1 turns BTA and puts sign back on prop table as Reader 2 turns to face audience wearing a very large baseball cap with a sign attached that says: DON'T! He (she) struggles to see the audience from under the heavy brim, then pushes the cap up so he/she can see. He/she also carries a sign that says):

## **PROMISES**

READER 2: Hey, hey, everybody - come on over here! Sign up for the DON'T TEAM and get a Team Cap just like this one! This cap is only one of the things you'll get if you join the DON'T TEAM. I promise!

(Reader 1 turns to face audience holding a very large clip-on button or badge that says DO TEAM!)

READER 1: Yeah? Well that's nothing! (To audience): Don't listen to him (her). Join the DO TEAM and I'll give you this great button. When you wear it, everyone will know you're on the DO TEAM. I promise too. And that's another thing about GOOD PEOPLE...

READER 2: Here we go again...

READER 1: GOOD PEOPLE keep their promises!

They do what they say they are going to do.

They return the things they borrow.

They're careful about what they say and do...

And they say they will do things *only* when they really think they can *do* them!

That's why they need to join the DO TEAM.

READER 2: Wrong, as usual!